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state + cs +SEATTLE REPERTORY THEATRE TO PRESENT
'SHOW OFF' PRODUCTION AT UM APRIL 1-2
DURING STATE THEATRE ASSOCIATION MEETING

MISSOULA, Mont.--

In its first visit to the state, the Seattle Repertory Theatre (SRT) will present two public performances of the production entitled "The Show Off" April 1-2 at the University of Montana in Missoula in conjunction with the third annual theater festival of the Montana State Theatre Association (MSTA).

Joint announcement of the SRT's upcoming Missoula visit was made Monday, Jan. 31, in the Garden City by Peter Donnelly, SRT producing director; Dr. James D. Kriley, chairman of the UM Department of Drama/Dance, who is director of the third annual MSTTA festival, and Rolland R. Meinholtz, associate professor of drama at UM, who is MSTTA president.

The University and Sentinel High School of Missoula will be co-hosts of the SRT's visit during the MSTTA festival.

Among the 400 theater-related persons expected for the MSTTA festival April 1-2 in Missoula will be drama students, faculty and staff from various high schools and colleges in Montana; community theater groups throughout the state, and others involved directly or otherwise interested in theater.

Donnelly said production of "The Show Off" April 1-2 at UM will be part of a seven-week tour planned by the SRT to 12 cities in a total of five states.

Commenting on the production, Donnelly said, "We are confident that audiences will be delighted with 'The Show Off,' this year's offering by the Seattle Repertory Theatre. It is a side-splitting comedy about a breezy character whose aspirations for greatness will amuse the entire family.

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"We always take family fare in theater out on tours because an integral part of the original plans of the touring program were to make professional theater available to young people as well as to older theatergoers," Donnelly said.

"The Show Off" by George Kelly, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, was first staged in the early 1920s. The production, presented on Broadway 571 times, deals with American family life of the '20s.

In the SRT's stage production of "The Show Off," which opens in Seattle on Feb. 9, Broadway actor Robert Moberly portrays the lead character, Aubrey Piper. Piper was portrayed on the screen by Spencer Tracy in 1934 and by Red Skelton in 1947.

Moberly, who most recently was on tour with Katharine Hepburn in a "Matter of Gravity," returned to the SRT shortly after receiving Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Award for his performance at the Academy Festival Theatre opposite Lynn Redgrave, Irene Worth and Donald Moffat in Shaw's "Misalliance."

Meinholtz said the SRT will arrive in Missoula March 31 for a three-day residency in the area.

Besides the two performances of "The Show Off" April 1-2 by the nine-member main SRT group, the Missoula residency by the Seattle organization will include local school presentations by a smaller SRT group of six performers known as the Mobile Outreach Bunch (MOB). Members of MOB will visit area schools to present a 50-minute, free-wheeling revue known as "The Rhythm Show," a revue based on the theme of beat.

After arriving in Missoula March 31, the main company and the MOB group comprising the Seattle organization also will conduct professional workshops in acting, directing, legislative affairs in the arts and other subjects as requested by the MSTA.

Ticket information regarding the Missoula performances of "The Show Off" will be released at a later date.